

Brown v. Board of Education

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Attorney Louis L. Redding

Born: October 25, 1901

Died: September 29, 1998

Undergraduate degree: Brown University, 1923

Law Degree: Harvard Law School, 1928

Case argued: *Belton v. Gebhart*, *Bulah v. Gebhart*



As the first black lawyer in Delaware, Louis L. Redding obtained the experience to fight for civil rights and equal treatment under the law. While attending Brown University and Harvard Law School, he developed the skills necessary to become one of the country's pre-eminent civil rights attorneys.

In 1950, as a lawyer for the NAACP, Louis Redding filed a lawsuit on behalf of Sarah Bulah, to admit her daughter Shirley to a nearby white school. This case, along with four others would come to the U.S. Supreme Court at the same time and become known as *Brown v. Board of Education*. Redding was responsible for arguing the Delaware case in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Before Sarah Bulah approached Redding, he helped students who applied to the University of Delaware, an all white college. Redding, along with Jack Greenberg, helped to desegregate the University of Delaware at the undergraduate level with *Parker v. University of Delaware*. After looking at both the black and white colleges, the state court judge found the black college inferior, and ordered that the students be admitted to the white school

References:

Brown University. *Alpha Gamma History: Louis Lorenzo Redding-Class of 1923*. Retrieved August 9, 2007, from http://www.brown.edu/Students/Alpha_Phi_Alpha/LRedding.html.

Kluger, Richard. *Simple Justice*. New York: Vintage Books, 2004.

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